



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1731
#5/11-19-02

In Re Application of:

Kehrer et al.

Serial No.: 09/933,408

Filed: August 20, 2001

Confirmation No.: 5728

For: FIBROUS SHEET BINDERS

Examiner: Halpern, Mark

Art Unit: 1731

Docket No.: A148 1560

RECEIVED
NOV 18 2002
TC 1700

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Non-Fee Amendment
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed October 16, 2002, Applicants provide the following:

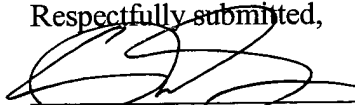
It has been determined that the claims in the present application are drawn to two distinct inventions and restriction to one of the inventions has been required. Specifically, claims 1-17 (Group I) are drawn to a polymer binder. Claims 18-43 (Group II) are drawn to a method of making a fibrous sheet and the fibrous sheet.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I corresponding to claims 1-17. The election is made without traverse; however, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected claims in a subsequently filed divisional application.

The claims remaining in prosecution, claims 1-17, are believed to define a polymer binder. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

11/6/02
Date

Respectfully submitted,



Steven L. Schmid
Registration No. 39,358

WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE, PLLC
P. O. Box 7037
Atlanta, Georgia 30357-0037
(404) 962-7539 (Telephone)
(404) 870-8234 (Facsimile)

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

November 8, 2002

Caryl West